

### *Virus Halts Legislative Activities*

By Becky Gerritson, Eagle Forum of Alabama Executive Director



Becky Gerritson

Eagle Forum of Alabama was focused on several important legislative priorities during

the 2020 session. However, only one of our priorities actually made it through both chambers before the COVID 19 crisis hit. The shutdown resulted in the vast majority of bills working their way through the legislative process to die as the legislature adjourned.

#### **PRIORITIES**

#### **Resolution Declaring Pornography as a Public Health Crisis.**

Some view this resolution as unimportant and consider pornography solely a moral issue. But, did you know that mainstream pornography, which is free and easily accessible to all ages online, is actually illegal? The majority of online porn is extremely violent. Child porn as well as incestually themed porn are currently the most searched for content. The amount of online porn that is available is astronomical. Just ONE platform, PornHub has enough uploaded content that if you began

watching right now and continued watching 24/7 it would take 68 years to finish watching just what was uploaded before 2020!

Pornography is highly addictive. Continued porn viewing has a negative biologic impact on the brain causing the frontal lobe to actually shrink. That is the part of the brain that controls, among other things, decision making and judgement as well as compassion or empathy for others. Porn induced erectile dysfunction (PIED) is a serious phenomenon that is plagu-



*Alabama State House*

ing an alarming number of younger men. Not only does porn negatively affect the body physically and mentally, but pornography is the number one fuel for human trafficking. If you want to stop human trafficking you have to stop the demand. Pornography creates that demand.

This resolution is the only EF priority that actually passed both houses before the COVID 19 crisis hit. With its passage, Alabama became the 15<sup>th</sup> state in the nation to declare pornography as a public health crisis which will help encourage the Department of Justice to begin enforcing our obscenity laws. Our sponsors, Sen. Dan Roberts and Rep. Danny Garrett are to be commended. You can see more stats on porn at <https://alabamaeagle.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Fast-Facts-Pornography-.pdf>

#### **The Vulnerable Child and Compassion Protection Act (VCAP) (HB30 Rep. Allen/SB219 Sen Shelnett)**

VCAP was a bill that Eagle Forum of Alabama helped draft with a team of pediatricians, endocrinologists, a plastic surgeon, mental health/family counselors, attorneys and parents. In Alabama, permanent life altering medical treatments are being given to minors who have false beliefs about their bodies. In some states, healthy 13 year old girls are undergoing double mastectomies to alter their bodies and boys as young as 15 are getting castrated. In Alabama, minors are given hormones to delay natural puberty as well as cross sex hormones which can cause irreversible damage. They may also be referred

*Continued on page 2*

for surgery. This bill would prohibit the performance of a medical procedure or the prescription of medication, upon or to a minor child, that is intended to alter the minor child's physical characteristics to match their perceived gender or to delay puberty, with certain exceptions. This bill gives children and adolescents time to mature in their healthy, developing bodies. It protects them until the age of 19 from harmful medications and procedures.

An amazing group of individuals testified in favor of the bill in the Senate and House Health Committee's public hearings in February. It passed both committees overwhelmingly. Two of our witnesses were threatened by the opposition and security was notified. Thankfully, SB219 passed out of the full senate with a vote of 22-3. Another public hearing was scheduled for the House Health Committee but that never happened due to the COVID 19 shutdown. You can see more details about this important topic and view the testimonies from the Senate Health Committee's public hearing at [www.AlabamaEagle.org/VCAP](http://www.AlabamaEagle.org/VCAP).

## MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Another highly controversial piece of legislation was Sen. Melson's Medical Marijuana bill SB165. This bill would authorize certain residents of this state diagnosed with a qualifying medical condition to use cannabis for medical use. We opposed this bill for several reasons. This bill did pass the senate. The in state and out of state marijuana lobbyists are too numerous to name, and we expect them to be working hard over the summer to persuade legislators to pass it next year.

Eagle Forum had a full plate of bills that we were supporting, opposing or watching in the first 5 weeks of the session before COVID 19 that died with the shutdown.

### SUPPORTED:

The GIRL ACT: (HB35 Rep. Pringle) This bill protected women athletes by disallowing males to compete against them in female sports.

The Born Alive Bill (HB248 Rep. Shaver) A bill which would require doctors to give life-saving treatments to babies that survived an abortion. This is simply

the same type of care that would be given to any newborn that was born alive.

Banning Female Genital Mutilation (HB53 Rep. Hall)  
Banning Human Trafficking (Rep. Coleman-Not introduced due to COVID)

### OPPOSING or Watching closely:

Lottery or bills expanding gambling,  
Mandatory Immunization Database (Rep. Weaver HB103),  
K-12 Yoga bill (Rep. Gray HB235),  
Mandatory Mental Health Coordinator in K-12 Schools (Rep. Ledbetter SB341),  
Mandatory Kindergarten for 5 year-olds (Rep. Warren HB 440).

We, at Eagle Forum of Alabama, have been busy during the shutdown educating ourselves, encouraging return to work, and monitoring issues such as mandatory vaccinations, contact tracing, and our food supply. We will keep you informed in preparation for the next legislative session.

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## Idaho Becomes First State to BAN Transgender Athletes From Women's Sports

Idaho Governor Brad Little signed legislation on March 30, 2020, which made the state the first in the union to ban transgender athletes from girls' and women's sports and athletic events.

The Fairness in Women's Sports Act bans biological males who identify as female from competing on girls' and women's athletic teams in public K-12 schools, colleges and universities.

Little also signed into law a bill which bans Idahoans from changing their gender on birth certificates.

Liberal groups were quick to condemn the bills, but we strongly support these actions to protect girls and women from unfair competition. The Fairness in Women's Sports Act is similar to the GIRL Act we supported in this past legislative session that did not pass due to the advent of the Covid-19 legislative shutdown. We will be supporting this bill in the 2021 session.

Planned Parenthood “affiliates” applied for and received a total of \$80 million in loans from the Paycheck Protection Program recently passed by Congress to aid small businesses affected by the covid pandemic. After this was reported, the abortion provider was required to refund the money. They were quick to claim the funds while they are committed to spending millions of dollars to help elect those sympathetic to their desire to maintain a culture of abortion on demand. The Small Business Administration has gone to each affiliate to inform them that affiliates of large organizations with over 500 employees are not eligible for the funds. While elective surgeries were forbidden, abortion clinics declared that they are essential and stayed open in most states and continued to kill innocent life.

*Source: Eagle Forum Capitol Hill Report, May 22, 2020*

The abortion industry isn’t the only one exploiting the COVID-19 crisis. Pornhub, the world’s largest pornography website, is also jumping into the fray by making its premium content free worldwide. Amidst the coronavirus crisis, media accounts estimate over 1 billion people are in lock-down and Pornhub has declared their content as an “enjoyable way to pass the time.” Snapchat, a popular social media platform primarily used by teens to exchange photos, has been clearly encouraging teens to engage in “sexting” during the quarantine. The photos they post are often child pornography and thus illegal. The resolution passed this past session declared such porn a public health issue. *Source: The Family Policy Alliance 4/22/20*

On May 1, 2020 President Trump issued an executive order to help protect the national power grid from cyber-threats by decreasing the country’s dependence on foreign-manufactured equipment. He also created a task force to produce a risk-strategy plan to identify and replace equipment that poses a security risk. This will help protect us from an Electromagnetic Pulse attack. The bulk-power system is a target of those seeking to commit malicious acts against the United States and its people. (Note: As we have written in past newsletters, the U. S. is presently dependent on foreign made huge transformers that are a necessary part of our electric grid.)

*Source: Eagle Forum Capitol Hill Report, May 8, 2020*

States across the nation are talking about or planning to hold elections totally by mail due to the COVID-19 crisis. CNN host Brianna Keilar asserted that voting fraud only takes place at the in-person polls. Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill responded, “I know that since I’ve been Secretary of State in Alabama—five years, four months and eight days—we’ve had six convictions on voter fraud and had two elections that have been overturned. Five of the six that have been convicted for fraudulent activity related to absentee balloting.”

*Source Townhall.com 5/26/2020*

“The world is a dangerous place, not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don’t do anything about it.”

*Albert Einstein-The Harper Book of Quotations Revised Edition*

“Religion is of general and public concern, and on its support depend, in great measure, the peace and good order of government, the safety and happiness of the people.”

*Samuel Chase, Signer of the Declaration and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court*

“A proper history of the United States would have much to recommend it: in some respects it would be ... unlike all others; it would develop the great plan of Providence, for causing this extensive part of our world to be discovered, and these ‘uttermost parts of the earth’ to be gradually filled with civilized and Christian people and nations.... The historian, in the course of the work, is never to lose sight of that great plan.” *John Jay in letter to Jedidiah Morse, 1809*

“The individual who refuses to defend his rights when called by his Government, deserves to be a slave, and must be punished as an enemy of his country and friend to her foe.” *Andrew Jackson, In Proclamation to the people of Louisiana, 1814*

“It is to be regretted that the rich and powerful too often bend the acts of government to their selfish purposes. Distinctions in society will always exist under every just government....There are no necessary evils in government. Its evils exist only in its abuses. If it would confine itself to equal protection, and, as Heaven does its rains, shower its favors alike on the high and the low, the rich and the poor, it would be an unqualified blessing.”

*Andrew Jackson Year: 1829 Veto Message Regarding the Bank of the United States*

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# Alabama Homeschool Mom Responds to Harvard Professor's Article Critical of Homeschooling

In [Harvard Magazine's](#) May-June issue, Elizabeth Bartholet, a law professor and faculty director of the school's Child Advocacy Program, worried that homeschooled children will not be able to contribute to a democratic society. Writing about their upcoming "homeschooling" summit, she called homeschooling "child maltreatment" and "educational deprivation" that happens when parents choose to homeschool their children.

Many on TV responded to this attack. But, an Alabama mom, Iva Hendon, who homeschooled eight children for a total of 27 years, has written her own response which she posted on social media. Mrs. Hendon says that after the article accused homeschooling parents of "educational deprivation", she felt compelled to respond.

The Harvard article also states that, "many homeschool precisely because they want to isolate their children from ideas and values central to public education and to our democracy." True, many want a better education for their kids than public schools provide, and many want to ensure that their children know that we live in a Republic, not a democracy. It goes on to say that many promote racial segregation and female subservience, that many question science, and that many are determined to keep their children from exposure to views that enable autonomous choices about their future lives. They call homeschooling a "rapidly growing phenomena" that is a threat to children and society.

Mrs. Hendon's eight very accomplished children are now leading very productive lives. Most of them plan to homeschool their own children. According to Mrs. Hendon, "I encouraged my children to think critically and analytically about what they were learning, even science. Questioning what they were reading was encouraged. As any parent would, I have striven to influence my children, teaching them my values and emphasizing character development. Though I have encouraged all my children to accept Christ, not all of my children have. I know that I can't control that. It is a personal decision."

After detailing the accomplishments and careers of her children, Mrs. Hendon went on to say, "As a result of so many years of doing life daily, together, we are all very close though we are now scattered across the country. We love getting together for large family gatherings. We love to sing and laugh together. We are strong, but not perfect.

I support this 'rapidly growing phenomena' of homeschooling! It is not a 'threat to children and society!' Child mal-treatment, sadly, happens to children in the public education system as well private and home-school settings. Homeschool co-ops have evolved to be a wonderful avenue of connection and encouragement to families, as well as enrichment to students. Co-ops meet one to three days per week for classes taught by parents or special guests with expertise in academic areas as well as vocational areas such as carpentry, plumbing, electrical, and automotive. Drama productions, friendly competitions, and physical education classes are highlights. Our co-op grew and spawned a second local co-op as we outgrew our facility.

This Harvard push against homeschooling is offensive to me on many levels. At the heart of it is a thinly veiled assault on faith, values, and family. It is fear-driven. Because the pandemic has exposed many families to the thought of homeschooling after things return to normal, liberals are realizing the threat to their agenda. If parents are given too much time to influence their children, it might derail the progress they have made toward their socialistic political agenda that hinges on the use of the public education system as an avenue to program the mindsets of students so that they are easily controlled and manipulated. To replace our capitalistic government with a socialist one is the goal, and to do that they have to extinguish faith, family, and independent thought. My hope is that parents will think independently and refuse to be intimidated by this degrading assault."

## *Anne Schlafly Cori, Chairman of Eagle Forum*

“Who the hell is Phyllis Schlafly?” asks disgruntled and disheveled *Feminine Mystique* author Betty Friedan, played by Tracey Ullman, on the new FX Hulu series “Mrs. America.”

Schlafly, played by two-time Oscar winner Cate Blanchett, who is also executive producer, is the “Mrs. America” in the title of the 9-part miniseries that debuted in April.

The series is about the epic battle to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, recently resurrected, which Schlafly is credited with having defeated singlehandedly and at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour.

Anne Schlafly Cori, Chairman of Eagle Forum, which Schlafly founded in 1972, says that the creators of the series still don’t know who the hell Phyllis Schlafly is, though Cori probably would put this in a more genteel manner.



*Anne Schlafly Cori*

Cori has conceded that, while the series got her mother’s hair and make-up right, it missed the whole point of the dynamo that was Phyllis Schlafly. Although Cori knew after seeing the trailers that her mother would be portrayed as cold and calculating, once she saw “Mrs. America,” she was stunned at seeing how the series dealt with deeply private matters about which the producers and writers couldn’t possibly know. Even Cori’s devoted father, lawyer Fred Schlafly, played by John Slattery, best known as Roger Sterling of AMC’s “Mad Men” series, was turned into a sexist monster.

“I am shocked at how the show portrays my parents’ loving marriage,” Cori told IWF. “In multiple scenes, they show Fred [Schlafly] bullying and harassing Phyllis and then they try to indicate that Phyllis turned around and bullied and harassed her children and her opponents. Their view is that Phyllis was both victim and victimizer.

“Mrs. America’ misunderstands Phyllis Schlafly because the feminist writers have projected their anxieties onto her,” said Cori.

“The truth is that my parents had a love match and were full partners: intellectually, spiritually, and romantically. Fred Schlafly was fully supportive of everything that his wife said and did.”

Anne explains, “My mother never had the doubts and anxieties shown, because her convictions came from her deep faith in Jesus Christ. ‘Mrs. America’ has not shown the faith side of Phyllis, which misses out on the single most important key to Phyllis’ courage.”

“No, my mother never threw me into the swimming pool. I was particularly distressed at the fictional scene of ‘forced marital sex,’ because Blanchett shows a look of contempt for her husband. The producers of ‘Mrs. America’ have manufactured an inner life of Phyllis Schlafly that is contrary to all the evidence in her public life. Phyllis Schlafly did not have a double life; how she was in public was how she was in private,” Cori said.

The ERA was almost a done deal when Schlafly and her STOP-ERA campaign emerged into the national spotlight in the 1970s. Only three states needed to ratify the proposed amendment to make it part of the U.S. Constitution when time expired in 1982. Schlafly kept them from crossing the finish line.

But that doesn’t mean the fight is over. The long dormant amendment was revived recently, with a newly-blue Virginia belatedly voting to ratify it in January of 2020, becoming the 38<sup>th</sup> state to do so. Some other states have rescinded support over the years, however.

Even liberal Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has said that, if the ERA is to be added to the Constitution, the process to ratify it must begin all over again. “If you count a

latecomer on the plus side, how can you disregard states that said we've changed our minds?" Ginsburg has asked. ERA supporters aren't dissuaded that easily, even by their revered Notorious RBG, and so it is not a surprise that, as the fight for the ERA resumes, Schlafly, their arch villain, is once again taking up space rent free in their heads.

Anne Cori, Schlafly's youngest daughter, is helping carry on her mother's work. Cori, a Georgetown University history major, grew up in Alton, Illinois.

Anne attended a private, all-girls school, to which Phyllis often drove her. Dinner was on the table at six pm and the family was expected to be present. While they had many of the trappings and structure of an average American household, it was impossible for the children not to realize that her mother was very famous. "Oh, yes. Oh, yes, I knew she was famous," Anne said. "Because she was constantly on the news. We had media in our home. Her office was in our home, so at any given time, I could answer the phone and it might be CBS News."

Unlike many children of famous people, Anne enjoyed the commotion. "At the time, in the seventies, it was very exciting. I felt like we were in the hub of activity and the whole world was interested in what we were doing in our home. And so, it was exciting. Now, of course, my mother was vilified rather intensely. Betty Freidan called her a traitor to her sex."

Anne believes she benefited from the experience of being Phyllis Schlafly's daughter. "I think what it did for me was it toughened me," she said. "I learned how to stand up to bullies, and I'm grateful for the experience of standing up against this is right," and in standing up to me."

Anne now lives in Tom. Tom is the Gerty Cori, who to-Prize for physiolo-raising events for



Phyllis Schlafly with her daughter Anne Schlafly Cori

St. Louis with her husband son of Carl Ferdinand and gether won the 1947 Nobel gy. The couple hosts fund-conservative causes.

Anne owns a kitch-sells culinary equip-classes. The website watering dishes such

sagna that are sold in the shop. Ann's skills at cooking are another part of her inheritance from her mother: Phyllis Schlafly's specialty was the souffle, daunting to so many cooks. Phyllis' recipes have been collected into a cookbook, "Faithfully Phyllis: Phyllis Schlafly's Favorite Recipes," available at the Eagle Forum website. Phyllis was especially accomplished with that most daunting of dishes, the souffle.

en store in St. Louis that ment and hosts cooking features pictures of mouth-as duck tacos or Venetian la-

"My mother loved souffles," Anne revealed. "The souffle can be intimidating even to experienced cooks, and, of course, everybody thought my mother was intimidating, so a souffle by Phyllis Schlafly is doubly intimidating. But she loved separating eggs and whipping up the whites, and so we put five different souffle recipes in the cookbook."

Anne has served on the board of Eagle Forum since 2008, and from 2012-2016 regularly hosted the radio show "Eagle Forum Live." And now it seems that Ann and the women of Eagle Forum will once again be called into battle against the ERA. Why, after all these years, is the ERA suddenly an issue once again?

"I think the continuing movement to ratify ERA, pushed by the left, was kind of a fringe movement until 2018," Cori said, "when all the Democratic women elected to Congress that year showed up to Congress wear-

ing white and big ‘ratify ERA’ stickers. That is when people started to recognize that this was a possibility. If we amend the Constitution, it should be done with a full and robust debate across the country, and not just a couple of states. We shouldn’t amend the Constitution in the dark of the night, but we should have an open and robust conversation about whether or not this is a good idea.”

When Phyllis Schlafly, who died in 2016 (but not without giving the left one last thing for which to hate her—a ringing endorsement of then presidential candidate Donald J. Trump) was fighting against the ERA in the 1970s, she was mocked for predicting all sorts of things would result from ratification, including women being drafted into the military, a decline in traditional marriage, and the legalization of same-sex marriage. How absurd, feminists said. How alarmist. Since all of these are now part of the culture, or in the case of drafting women, a likely development, even without the ERA, why bother with a second fight? Does it really matter?

According to Cori, the battle is even more important today. While some of the policy issues affected by the ERA would be different in 2020 from 1978 – even Schlafly wasn’t worried about any ambiguity in the meaning of the word “sex” in the amendment – some of the core principles from her argument against it remain sticking points of the modern debate. Opponents argue, just as Schlafly did decades earlier, that the ERA replaces the equality women already enjoy with sameness, erasing from the law and from our society any distinctions between the sexes, to the detriment of women and girls.

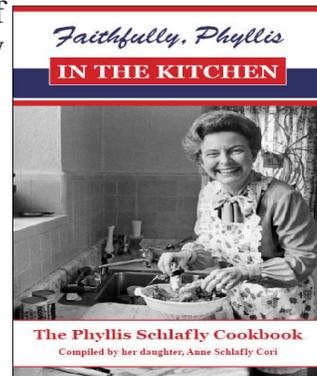
“Some people see it as just a feelgood amendment,” Cori explained. “They say, ‘Well, then it would put women in the Constitution—why not?’, but as I said, it puts *sex* in the Constitution, not women. I think in the 1970s there was a general understanding that sex referred to biological men and biological women. But that understanding does not exist today. And, so, with the rise of the transgender movement, there’s a whole new hornet’s nest on what is the meaning of this amendment, and there’s no doubt that ERA would that people didn’t consider before. So, for example, we have high school girls’ athletics that have been invaded by transgender boys. Well, under the ERA, you could not prohibit transgender boys being on girl’s teams.

“Far from being harmless,” Cori continues, “I believe that the real pernicious effect of this amendment would be on the most vulnerable. Having the ERA in the Constitution is not going to make a bit of difference for someone who graduates from Harvard Law School, but it will make a host of differences for women who are incarcerated, or women who want to go to women’s shelters that no longer can prohibit men from sleeping in women’s shelters, it will harm women in factory work who right now have a Pregnancy Accommodation Act. That is, there are hundreds of laws that help women because of their circumstances of being women, and pregnancy accommodation is one of them. So, when women no longer get breaks because they’re pregnant, that is something that harms vulnerable women who are in jobs where they don’t have other options.”

This is why Phyllis Schlafly is suddenly in the news again. Given the stakes, IWF’s Inez Feltscher Stepman thinks that the effort to smear Schlafly on “Mrs. America,” may have done what Phyllis’ opponents always do: underestimated her. By letting Phyllis talk in the movie, she made some great points, and they came through loud and clear, despite the effort to turn her into a villain.

Meanwhile, the daughter is preparing to fight the ERA a second time. What could be a better way to prepare than cooking some of Phyllis’ favorite dishes? After all, Phyllis and her army of housewives outraged the likes of Gloria Steinem, Bella Abzug, and Friedan by showering wavering legislators with their delicious apple pies, and preserves. Those apple pies really got their goats!

With that in mind, Phyllis’s Schlafly’s favorite recipes are available in her cookbook, which Anne no doubt will prepare to fortify her family for the new battle. *Faithfully, Phyllis, In the Kitchen* is available at Eagle Forum.org





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